

MINUTES

Mansfield Advisory Committee on Persons with Disabilities

Regular Meeting - Tuesday June 22, 2010

2:30 PM - Conference Room B - Audrey P. Beck Building

I. Recording Attendance

Present: K. Grunwald (staff), W. Gibbs (Chair), C. Colon-Semenza, J. Blanshard, J. Tanner

Regrets: F. Goetz, J. Sidney, KA Easley

II. Approval of Minutes: the minutes for the May 25, 2010 meeting were approved as written.

III. New Business

- a. "Good Citizen" Recognition: K. Grunwald distributed a press release announcing "Good Citizen" recognition of two businesses that added new signs to indicate the amount of fines for handicapped parking. This was approved with some minor modifications. We will send a letter and certificate to the businesses. It was agreed that we should do this type of recognition on a regular basis. C. Colon-Semenza suggested that we recognize TJ Maxx in September for their installation of an automatic door opener.
- b. Know Your Towns Fair (Sept. 11): Discussion re: whether or not the Committee wants to have a table or an activity for the event. Some review of whether or not activities that simulate disabilities are effective, and how to get people to participate. C. Colon-Semenza talked about a presentation that she recently did at her son's kindergarten class. Some questions about what the potential benefits are of doing this; could this address the isolation that some people with disabilities experience? The suggestion was made that it could be helpful to use this event focus on the needs of families with young children with disabilities; possibly facilitate ways for these families to connect (voluntary registry). K. Grunwald suggested creating a Q-Send distribution list on the Town's website. W. Gibbs suggested creating a brochure (include mission statement) for the committee; K. Grunwald will send a draft out over the summer, and will reserve a table, create a schedule for coverage for the event.
- c. "Other": none.

IV. Old Business

- a. ADA Grievance Committee: K. Grunwald clarified that the group can get access to outside legal counsel if necessary to address ADA grievance issues if there is a conflict with using the Town's attorney.
 - b. Network for parents of children with disabilities: discussed: Members agreed that the goal is to create a parent network and initiate a support group. We will invite Rachel Leclerc from the Mansfield Board of Education to attend one of our next meetings.
 - c. Accessible Parking Fines/Signs: no discussion apart from the "good citizen" recognitions of Cornerstone Group and Hayes Kaufman.
 - d. Publicity efforts: Members reviewed the "marketing snippet" that W. Gibbs had created. It was agreed that we will use this and send it out to individuals who are interested in the committee. J. Blanshard will share this with her daughter at the bus company.
C. Colon-Semenza raised the issue of doing a community presentation on disabilities (possibly at the Senior Center). The direction of this presentation needs to be determined: disability rights, basic information, resources, services, advocacy, community forum, etc. We can look at using the Know Your Towns Fair to attempt to determine the direction; consider doing the presentation in early November. Should other organizations and providers be included? Cristina will take the lead on this, but would be looking for other committee members to assist in the presentation.
 - e. Status of other accessibility issues previously identified: K. Grunwald reminded members that the program amendment to modify the changing room at the Community Center was approved,
- V. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:35 PM; next meeting September 28, 2010.